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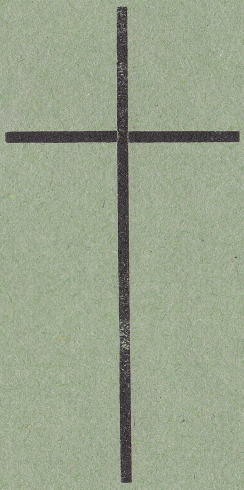
The Messenger



MARCH, 1971

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THE MESSENGER

*

UNITED SERVICE AGAIN ON PALM SUNDAY

*

All news items etc., for April publication should be in the hands of the Editor by:

14th MARCH 1970

PLEASE

MARCH

1970

Price 2p

Dear Friends,

There's a cartoon in this morning's paper (Saturday February 13th), showing a poor, dejected housewife lying flat on the floor, her shopping basket and decimal conversion table sprawling. At the same time she is being 'sat on' literally by four gloating gentlemen representing her bank manager, the bus inspector, the shopkeeper, and an unusual looking figure with local odd-bod printed on his cap. Brandishing a finger at her is Mr. Heath, his nose pointed like a carrot. The caption underneath puts words into Mr. Heath's mouth: "Good Heavens woman! Stand on your own feet and fight them!"

Leaving decimalisation alone - we will be well versed by the time you read this - there is a striking similarity between the Prime Minister's words, and the orders that come down the centuries to Christians.

Meek submission to fordes that seem beyond us, is as ineffectual as faking a foul when the opposing forward is past you. What do people take us Christians for? - weak-kneed, pious individuals who flavour our lives with a dash of hymn-singing and powder our cherubic faces? And yet there are many who think that if you go to church, you are some sort of Victorian with a hangover! The type of Christianity that inspired men and women to courage, self sacrifice and even martyrdom was no flabby cult. It was powerful and dynamic and relied on the total commitment of the individual. This is why it was effective and turned the world upside down.

The Church has been charged recently with being ineffective and out of date. These are not the real questions. The crunch comes when we ask whether we have the Spirit of Christ. Is our commitment Christ-centred in every way? In the

seventies, the articulate, believing Christian is in a minority group. That means that it takes guts to make a stand for Christ. He took His stand firmly when he set his course for Jerusalem with such determination that even the cross and death didn't alter the victorious result.

"Good Heavens, Christian! On your feet and Fight them!" In fighting, we may be in for a few shocks. We will find Christ already within our world, incognito in week humility. We will also find the 101 opportunities when we can be His spokesman and His witness. There may be a lot of darkness in our world, but there is also a lot of light. If we can increase the brilliance, then all praise be to God.

Yours sincerely,

Glyn Jenkins

****

IN MEMORIAM

IAN RUSSELL MERRICK born on Wednesday 10th February and passed away shortly after birth.
Our deepest sympathy goes to the parents, Mr. and Mrs. I. Merrick of 71 Lakeside, Littleborough.
The baby was laid to rest in Rochdale Cemetary on Tuesday 16th February, our minister in attendance

JOHN BARROTT REED of 49 Halifax Road, Littleborough, aged 81, died at Birch Hill on Thursday 11th February 1971. The burial took place at Milnrow Parish Church on Wednesday 17th February, our minister officiating.
Mr. Reed has done faithful service both at St. Stephen's and as a deacon at Littleborough Congregational Church. Our sympathy goes to Mrs. Reed, his widow, and to the family.

HOLY BAPTISM

On February 7th at St. Stephen's:

David Gareth Schofield of 26 Ladyhouse Lane.

Martin Stuart Roberts of 4 Albert Street.

Rebecca Reed of 1 Whalley Close, Milnrow.

"For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven".

****

THE FAMILY CHURCH COURSE AND FESTIVAL SERVICE

(For both Littleborough and Milnrow Readers):

The Family Church Course which takes us through to Easter (April 11th) will be on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. We will be taking a number of incidents within his life, leading up to the last week of his life with all its drama. On Palm Sunday, April 4th we will be holding a United Festival Service, when Littleborough will come to Milnrow 'en masse', and join in another inspiring service. Children and adults from both churches will be taking part.

Family Church Radings at St. Stephen's:

March 7th: Luke 4: 16-30

14th: Matt.10: 16-20, 26-31

21st: Luke 6: 27-36

28th: Luke 9: 18-27, 51

****

DISTRICT PULPIT EXCHANGE SUNDAY: MARCH 14th

This annual event does allow our ministers and lay preachers to see fresh faces! Our minister will be preaching at Besses O'th'Barn on the Sunday morning but will be taking the usual evening service at Littleborough at Night. Mr. Roberts will be going to Four Lane Ends, Bury; Mrs. Gillon to Stand Congregational Church, and to Blackford Bridge, Bury.

MARCH HOUSE GROUPS: WORLD RELIGIONS

LITTLEBOROUGH: Thursday 11th March at 8.0 pm. at 2 Centre Vale.

MILNROW: Wednesday 17th March at 7.30 pm. at the Manse.

Remember the Quiz last month? This is a real chance to become informed.
Please try to come.

****

DEMONSTRATIVE WOMEN

Dr. Raymond Schofield gave a very interesting and reassuring talk to the Ladies' Guild on Tuesday 2nd February, when 22 members and friends were present to hear about "Cancer."

By the time we go to press the lingerie demonstration fixed for the 23rd February will have been held and members will be looking forward to the North Western Gas Board's cookery demonstration on 2nd March, and the Fashion Show on March 9th. The guild certainly seem to be very active at the moment.

****

"IN THE MODERN IDIOT"

A cynic has recently informed the editor that our hymn book misses out one verse from hymn number 695 (Check)

"Man has given us a bag full of theories,
To learn with our history & sums,
It begins with the tale of a monkey,
And ends with a city of slums."

*****

The Women's Guild have organised a

FASHION SHOW
by 'Harwoods' of Shaw

on Tuesday, 9th March
at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets 15p (Including Refreshments)

****

The Men have organised a

FAMILY CHURCH SOCIAL

on Saturday, 20th March
at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets: Adults 15p
Children 10p Family Ticket: 37½p

Games.....Dancing.....Novelties

*

We look forward to your support at the above events.

****

SHOCK EXCHANGE

A Businessman who had heard it was scientifically possible for the human body to be frozen and re-animated years later, invested all his money in growth stock and asked to be frozen till the year 2010.

When he thawed out 40 years later, he was given a letter from his brokers telling him the stock was now worth £900 million. Excitedly, he dashed out to a public telephone and asked to be connected with the firm immediately.

"Certainly, sir," said the operator. "Please put one million pounds in the box."

SIDESMEN FOR MORNING WORSHIP

March 7th	Mr. L. Whittaker	Mr. R. Gillon
14th	Mr. H. Mellor	Mr. A. Bruckshaw
21st	Mr. D. Fursey	Mrs. F. Rae
28th	Mr. G. Buckley	Mr. A. Rae
April 4th	Coun.J. Harrison	Counc. I. Royle

DEACONS ROTA

	EVENING DOOR STEWARDS	VESTRY DUTY
March 7th	Mr. B. Clough Mr. J. Emmott	-
14th	Mrs. A. Whitworth Mrs. N. Settle	Mr. J. Emmott
21st	Mrs. A. Wilson Miss M. Wood	-
28th	Mr. H. Whitehead Mr. K. Hey	-
April 4th	Mrs. E. Gillon Mrs. E. Starkie	-

COMMUNION ROTA

March 7th	Mr. H.Whitehead Mrs.A. Wilson
Apl. 4th	Mr. K. Hey Mr. A. Roberts

ORGANIST TRANSPORT ROTA

March 7th	Mr. B. Clough
21st	Mr.H.Whitehead
Apl. 4th	Mr. K. Hey

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

March 7th	Mrs. H. Buckley	Mrs. E. Smith
14th	Miss M. Wood	Miss A. Clegg
21st	Mrs. J. Duffy	Mrs. F. Butterworth
28th	Mrs. F. Rae	Mrs. D. Law
Apl. 4th	Mrs. W. Prince	Mrs. W. Holland

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

March 7th	Mrs. H. Buckley	Mrs. E. Smith
14th	Mrs. E. Cross	Miss M. Wood
21st	Mrs. A. Tither	Mrs. J. Harrison
28th	Miss I. Tither	Mrs. B. Shacleton

March

Mon.	2nd	7.30 pm.	Ladies Guild: N.W.Gas Board Cookery Demo.
Tues.	3rd	7.30 pm.	Bury & Rochdale Dist.Womens Guild Rally at Milton. Induction of President: Mrs.E.Gill
Sun.	7th	11.00 am.	Rev.G.Jenkins. Sacrament of Baptism
		6.00 pm.	" Communion
Mon.	8th	7.30 pm.	Finance Committee Meeting
Tues.	9th	7.30 pm.	Fashion Show (See page 6)
Wed.	10th	7.30 pm.	Deacons Meeting
Fri.	12th	8.00 pm.	District Youth Comm.at Bamford.
Sun.	14th		District Pulpit Exchange
		11.00 am.	Mr. D. Nuttall B.Sc.
		6.00 pm.	Rev. J. Robinson (Radcliffe)
Mon.	15th	7.30 pm.	Teachers' Home Study Course at 12 Raines Crest.
Wed.	17th	7.30 pm.	House Group: World Religions at the Manse.
Sat.	20th	7.30 pm.	Family Church Social & Dance (See page 6)
Sun.	21st	11.00 am.	Rev. G. Jenkins (Mothering Sunday)
		6.00 pm.	"
Sun.	28th	11.00 am.	Mr. A. Roberts
		6.00 pm.	Film Service "THE HUTTERITES"
Mon.	29th	8.00 pm.	World Mission Committee at 44 Beechfield Road.
Wed.	31st	8.00 pm.	Church Meeting.

April

Sun.	4th	11.00 am.	UNITED FESTIVAL SERVICE

OFFERTORIES

January	Envelopes			Cash			Total		
	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
3rd	4	14	3	16	5	6	20	19	9
10th	4	16	4	14	11	2	19	7	6
17th	5	15	3	11	3	0	16	18	0
24th	5	8	0	14	13	5	20	1	5
31st	7	6	2	14	10	0	21	16	2

March

Fri. 5th	3.00 pm.	Women's World Day of Prayer
Sun. 7th		LADIES SERVICES
	10.30 am.	Mrs. Nicholson
	3.00 pm.	Mrs. B,J. Wilkinson (Castleton)
	6.00 pm.	Mrs. Nicholson
Tues. 9th	7.30 pm.	Ladies Guild (Annual Meeting)
Thur.11th	6.00 pm.	Pilots
	8.00 pm.	House Group: World Religions at 2 Centre Vale.
Sun. 14th	10.30 am.	Pulpit Exchange
	6.00 pm.	Rev. G. Jenkins (Communion)
Thur.18th	6.00 pm.	Pilots
Sun. 21st	10.30 am.	Mr. A. Cooper (Castleton) (Mothers Day)
Tues.23rd	7.45 pm.	Cookery Demo.(N.W.Gas Board)
Thur.25th	6.00 pm.	Pilots
	7.45 pm.	Men's Fellowship
Sun.28th	10.30 am.	Rev. G. Jenkins
Mon. 29th	7.45 pm.	Church Meeting
Tues.30th	7.45 pm.	Busy Bees Meeting

April

Thur. 1st	6.00 pm.	Pilots
Sun. 4th	10.30 am.	UNITED SERVICE AT MILNROW
Fri. 9th	9.30 am.	Good Friday

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

March 7th	Mrs. Walker
14th	Mrs. Hancock
21st	Mrs. Crossley & Mrs. Williams
28th	Mrs. Wade
April 4th	Mrs. Cockcroft

OFFERTORIES

Jan. 24th	£9. 17. 6
31st	£10. 5. 6
Feb. 7th	£11. 13. 9
14th	£12. 10. 9

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

SIDESMEN

		LADIES SUNDAY	
March 7th			
14th	Mr. E. Holt	Mr. Beattie	10.30 am.
	Mr. Simpson	Mr. Nairn	6.00 pm.
21st	Mr. H. Hill	Mr. A. Booth	
28th	Mr. Brown	Mr. Ingham	
April 4th	Mr. Barker	Mr. Beattie	

DEACON'S COMMUNION ROTA

March 14th 6.0 pm. Mrs. Beattie & Mr. Griffiths
April 11th 10.30 am. Mr. Nairn & Mr. Barker

CRECHE ROTA

March 7th	Brenda Leach	Ann Tomlinson
14th	Barbara Griffiths	Elizabeth Crawford
21st	Beryl Hartley	Stella Moss
28th	Dorothy Mallinson	Hilary Vincent
April 4th	Jean Hobbs	Joan Horridge

****

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

March 7th "Jesus Handles Opposition"
Luke 4: 16-30 Mrs. C. Hill

14th "Jesus Strengthens His Friend"
Matt. 10: 16-31 Elizabeth Leach

21st "Jesus Teaches the Power of Love"
Luke 6: 27-36 Martin Law

28th "Jesus Faces Danger"
Luke 9: 18-27, & 51 Mr. F. Simpson

April 4th "Jesus Makes His Challenge"
Matt. 21: 1-11 Esther Bennett

These readings will be read from "Good News for Modern Man". We invite you to bring your copy and follow our readings.

THE BUSY BEES

At the Annual General Meeting of the Busy Bees held on Tuesday 2nd February the following officers were elected:-

President:	Mrs. Joan Law
Secretary:	Mrs. Ann Tomlinson
Treasurer:	Mrs. Stella Moss
Refreshment Organisers:	Mrs. Joan Horridge
	Mrs. Joan Hobbs
Posters:	Mrs. Hilary Vincent
Tickets:	Mrs. Kathleen Hill

The Bargain Party held on 9th February was very well attended and raised £10.65.

Members and friends are cordially invited to the next event on March 23rd at 7.45p.m. when the N.W. Gas Board will give a cookery demonstration.

****

MELITIAN MISCELLANY

The story of Malta, the George Cross Island was related by Mr. J. Lord of Smallbridge to the January meeting of the Men's Fellowship. His account of the privations of the little island in wartime proved to be most interesting and his talk was well illustrated with photographs. Supper was served at the end of the evening. (When the "relief chips" arrived?)

****

STICKY CUSTOMER

"Can you help me?" the customer asked a sharp young salesman in a London store. I want to buy a stick."

"Certainly, sir," was the reply, "Shooting, sugar, shaving, walking, candle or lip?"

C I F U R for U.R.C.

In our Churches special meetings must be called and a decision taken before 16th December, 1971 on whether or not we wish the Congregational Church of England and Wales to be joined with the Presbyterian Church of England in the formation of the United Reformed Church.

WHAT difference will it make to church members?

HOW will it alter the authority of the Church meeting?

HOW much independence will we lose?

WHAT strength will we gain?

There are, of course, many such questions arising in people's minds and to help to broaden understanding of what is going on you are invited to submit your questions for consideration and reply by the committees elected to examine the implications of the scheme.

****

BRINGING AND BUYING TO SEND MARIE

A Coffee Evening and Bring & Buy Sale was held at 2 Centre Vale in January in aid of the Marie Rand appeal. We are told that this event raised "Seven Pounds Four" which has since appreciated, of course to "Seven Pounds Twenty".

Our thanks go to all who supported this event including those who gave personal donations to Mr. Jenkins.

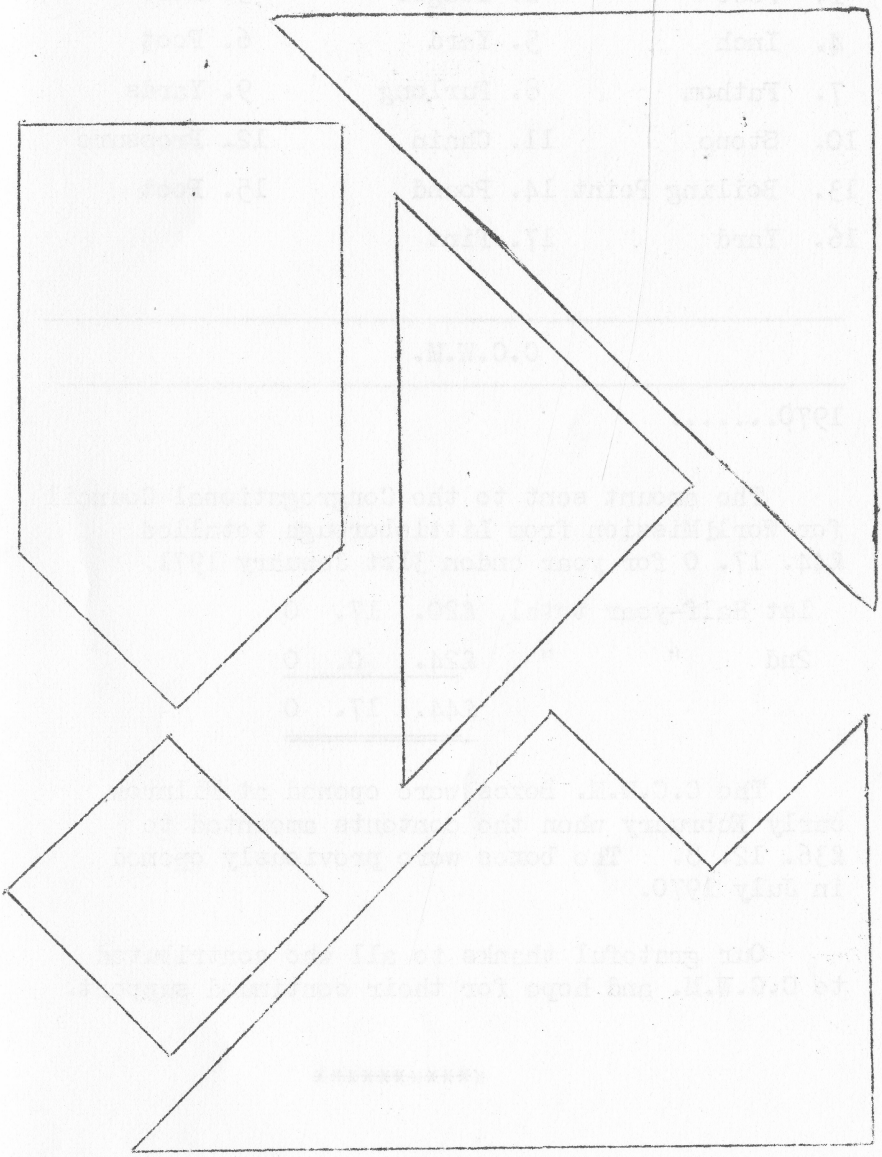
****

Archaeology is the science of digging around to find another civilization to blame ours on.

...Jack Wasserman

THINK ABOUT IT

Can you arrange these peculiar shapes to form a square?



Last Month's "Think About It": See page 14

Last Month's "Think About It"

1. Foot	2. League	3. Mile
4. Inch	5. Yard	6. Foot
7. Fathom	8. Furlong	9. Yards
10. Stone	11. Chain	12. Pressure
13. Boiling Point	14. Pound	15. Foot
16. Yard	17. Pint	

C.C.W.M.

1970.....

The amount sent to the Congregational Council for World Mission from Littleborough totalled £44. 17. 0 for year ended 31st January 1971.

1st Half-year total	£20.	17.	0
2nd " "	£24.	0.	0
	£44.	17.	0

The C.C.W.M. Boxes were opened at Milnrow early February when the contents amounted to £36. 12. 8. The boxes were previously opened in July 1970.

Our grateful thanks to all who contributed to C.C.W.M. and hope for their continued support.

****

MISSIONARY DEPUTATION - 17th - 21st February

A picture of the life and work in South India was given to a variety of people by the Rev. Donald Collins during his period of stay in the Rochdale District. We should also have had Mrs. Collins with us, but unfortunately for us she had to deputise for another missionary in the Fylde & Preston District.

His first visit was to the Luncheon Club at the Welfare Centre in Milnrow on WEDNESDAY, when after chatting to the regulars during lunch, he then illustrated his talk with transparencies.

On WEDNESDAY evening a successful Ecumenical gathering was held at 6 Ladyhouse Close, where Mr, Collins was staying, which included members of the Baptist, Methodist and Anglican Churches. The film and commentary in connection with the "Care" scheme was shown by the Rev. Glyn Jenkins followed by comments from Mr. Collins on caring in South India by the United Church. An interesting discussion followed.

Mr. Collins was the speaker at the open Women's Guild meeting at Milton on THURSDAY afternoon, and also at Littleborough in the evening when the Pilots held 'open house' for children aged 7-13 years. Transparencies were shown at both meetings.

Visits to a Junior Day School in Newhey and a Senior School in Heywood were also arranged.

The pattern changed at Heywood on SATURDAY afternoon when after a brief introduction to his work, the missionary was asked several interesting questions. Afternoon tea followed with plenty of opportunity for talking with him,

SUNDAY morning service at Milton and a very well supported United Service at Bamford in the evening brought the week to a close.

Mr. & Mrs. Collins will return to India in May with our good wishes and prayers for their work in the Coimbatore Diocese.

ST. STEPHEN'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, MILNROW

and

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, LITTLEBOROUGH

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Tel:	ROCHDALE 50161
CHURCH SECRETARY: - MILNROW	Mr. Allan Roberts, 54 Beechfield Road, Milnrow.
Tel:	ROCHDALE 42243
CHURCH SECRETARY: - LITTLEBOROUGH	Mr. W. Griffiths, 63 Shore Mount, Littleborough.
Tel:	ROCHDALE 79843
MESSENGER EDIOTR:	Counc. Ian Royle B.Sc. (Econ.), 24 Ladyhouse Close, Milnrow.
Tel:	ROCHDALE 41916

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April Deadline.....14th March 1970

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